setting up of Tribunal in each sub-division of every district to enforce the maintenance right of parents. The Bill also proposes to address the issues concerning older persons including lack of physical and financial support, emotional neglect, provision of food and shelter and protection of life.

(b) and (c) The Standing Committee has recommended that a provision should be included in the Bill to guarantee right to residence of parents in the house, even if constructed by their son from his personal earnings as it would ensure protection of their life.

(d) The National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice & Empowerment, is the highest body to coordinate and monitor the successful implementation of policies relating to welfare of the aged.

Manual scavenging

†153. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the practice of scavenging is still prevalent in various States of the country;

(b) the number of persons punished or fined, till date, under the Employment of manual Scavengers and construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993; and

(c) whether Government have any information as the number of persons still engaged in this inhuman practice in different States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The continuance and construction of dry latrines and employment of manual scavengers is prohibited under the Employment of manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrine (Prohibition) Act, 1993. As per the data available, more than 12,500 prosecutions have been filed in the judicial courts for contravention of the provisions of the Act.

(c) No such data is available.

Welfare schemes in Sikkim

154. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes being formulated and implemented by Government in Sikkim;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme for SCs, STs Tribals and backward classes in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No separate Scheme is being formulated and implemented exclusively for Sikkim. However, all schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Other Backward Classes are being implemented in Sikkim.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.